



# New Hope Notes

The Monthly Newsletter for New Hope Presbyterian Church

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FEBRUARY 2020

Friends in Our Lord Jesus Christ –

Even as I write this, the temperature is 67 degrees and the air is filled with the fragrance of spring. The lilac bush in the front yard is showing signs of budding and the grass seems a bit greener now that the snow is melted. This is not what January (or February) is supposed to look like. I'm glad for the winter respite, but I'm also confused by it.

God works in ways that are unexpected, illogical, and sometimes, "wrong"... in our opinion. We get confused by the situations. We exclaim to one another that "this is not what this should look like." But, friends, if we truly trust in the Lord, then we will accept what is happening and search for what He is trying to teach us in our confusion. This is a humbling place to be because we must set aside what we think should be happening and what we think is "right" in a situation, and simply trust Him. Recently, I was visiting with someone whose life on earth was coming to an end. His words of wisdom to me were these: "Sometimes when things appear to be falling apart, they are actually falling in place." As his body was failing and falling apart, he knew that his eternal life was falling into place. What faith! What trust!

Paul tells the Philippians not to be anxious about anything (Philippians 4:6). Matthew writes that we should not worry about tomorrow because today has enough trouble (Matthew 6:34). Both write that we, as Christians, should not overly concern ourselves and obsess about what is going "wrong" because there is no need to worry when we truly trust that Christ is working all things for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Here are some other ways to hear that we need to trust God:

1. Breathe. Have faith. Everything will be fine!
2. My child – you worry too much. I've got this, remember? Love, God
3. Don't worry about tomorrow – Christ has already been there.
4. And, in the words of Bobby McFerrin, "Don't worry – be happy! In every life you will have trouble and when you worry you make it double!"

Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of England during World War II, said to "Keep calm and trust no one." I say, "Keep calm and trust God."

Friends, you may not understand everything that is happening in your life. You may even be very confused by circumstances, but find joy in all that occurs because then we honor the Lord Almighty.

Amen!

*Pastor Brenda*

## SESSION SNIPPETS

by Bill S

Meeting on 1/9/2020, the Session...

- Had a time of learning about 10 things ruling elders should know.
- Approved the minutes of the 12/12/19 Session meeting.
- Discussed a threatening visit by two men from North Versailles and decided on what action should be taken.
- Decided how to proceed with a request from one of the Girl Scout leaders whose troop meets at the church and who wants to sponsor a Friday-Saturday sleepover at the church.
- Discussed initial plans for a special Session meeting to develop emergency procedures for increased safety and security of the church.
- Began thinking about updating the agreement between the church and Norwin Little League.
- Discussed plans for Rev. Barnes' installation service by a Redstone Presbytery commission on 1/26/20.
- Addressed a schedule conflict with Part 1 of the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Congregation/ Corporation, revising the due date for 2019 annual reports to 1/31/20 and the meeting date to 2/23/20.
- Scheduled the next monthly Session meeting for 2/18/20.

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> Eleanor S  
6<sup>th</sup> Judy E  
9<sup>th</sup> Ben K  
11<sup>th</sup> Dan C;  
Karen T  
12<sup>th</sup> Vivian K  
13<sup>th</sup> David P  
15<sup>th</sup> John S  
26<sup>th</sup> Olivia K

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

9<sup>th</sup> Elmer & Jan G  
13<sup>th</sup> David & Karen T

### 2020 COMMITMENT TO REDSTONE PRESBYTERY

The per capita apportionment is the way we Presbyterians share responsibility for the costs of our life together in ministry and our mission as one church.

Our church shares in this commitment with the PCUSA by payment of its full per capita apportionment. These funds come out of our general operating cash.

We urge everyone who hasn't shared in this responsibility for this year to do so - it is one way you can participate in the mission of Christ to the world! Our 2020 per capita is \$42.50.

### YOUR NEW HOPE ELDERS

Clerk of Session: Bill S  
Class of 2020: Helen C, Sue P, Jim  
Class of 2021: Edith B, Judy E, Donna V  
Class of 2022: John C, Bill S, Carl S

### MARCH NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the February newsletter is on Friday, February 14. Please submit articles, photos, and committee information to the church office via email. Thank you!

# February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service  <i>SOUPER BOWL OF CARING</i>	3 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  7pm GLOH Girls @ New Hope Church	4 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  6:30-8pm GS mtg. (Simmons)	5 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  6:30-7:30pm Bells 7:30-9pm Choir	6 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  5:45-8pm GS mtg. (Traficante)	7 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels	8
9 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service "Coffee & Conversation" after church	10 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels	11 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  6:30-8pm GS mtg. (Vanischak) 7pm Missions mtg.	12 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 10am Finance mtg.  6-7:30pm GS mtg. (Schwab) 6:30-7:30pm Bells 7:30-9pm Joy Choir	13 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 8:30am MOW Board  7pm Christian Nurt.	14 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  <i>March newsletter deadline</i>	15
16 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service with Joy Choir  Annual Reports available to pick up today	17 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  <i>PRESIDENTS' DAY</i>  7pm Worship mtg.	18 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  7pm Session mtg. 6:30-8pm GS mtg. (Simmons)	19 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  5-7pm GS mtg. (Howard) 6:30-7:30pm Bells 7:30-9pm Choir	20 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  5:45-8pm GS mtg. (Traficante) 7pm Property mtg.	21 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels	22 11:00am-4:00pm GS (Traficante)
23 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service  Part 1 of Annual Congregation/Corporation meeting immediately after church <i>TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD</i>	24 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels	25 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  5pm Fat Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper	26 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>  7:00pm Worship Service with Imposition of Ashes	27 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels	28 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels	29

## FEBRUARY REMINDERS:

- Part 1 of the Congregation/Corporation meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23.
- Fat Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper at 5:00pm on February 25!
- Ash Wednesday Worship Service with Imposition of Ashes at 7:00pm on February 26.

## CHURCH MAILBOX

Dear Kind Folks,

As a recipient of Meals on Wheels, I thank you for your generous "Brown Bag of Blessing." It's "FANTASTIC." Your congregation is wonderful and I appreciate your kindness.

Thank you again, again, and again and God Bless.

Gratefully,  
Frank M

Christian Nurture gives a warm thank you to Karen Thomas and the Queen's Beads for their generous donation of the beads and supplies for Christmas story bracelets. It was a wonderful family event that helped prepare us for the birth of Jesus.

Donna V

## MISSION TRIP PLANNED

Redstone Mission Team has set March 21-28, 2020 for a spring trip to Hampdon, WV. The cost of this trip is \$100.00. The team has also set July 11-18, 2020 for a summer trip to St. Albans, WV which would include young people 14 years or older. If interested or for more information on either of these trips contact Phyllis F.

## MEALS ON WHEELS

Norwin Area Meals on Wheels needs volunteers. They are also looking to fill the position of Treasurer, which will be vacant at the end of March.

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please see the New Hope liaison for Meals on Wheels, Howard S.

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

This year we'll observe the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Souper Bowl of Caring. <sup>by Donna V</sup> Our New Hope Youth will collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations on January 26 and February 2. Last year we collected \$813 and 738 items of food. Over the past 20 years \$2.3K & 2.2K items have been collected!

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

by Sue P

**LIGHT of LIFE**  
**rescue mission**  
Food. Shelter. Hope.

## FEBRUARY

As a ministry of Jesus Christ, Light of Life has a Christian commitment to provide a home for the homeless and food for the hungry, and will build disciples for the Kingdom of God among the poor, addicted, abused, and needy.

Light of Life has a Men's Residential Program, a Woman and Children's Program, and a Food and Emergency Program.

**Men:** Are provided shelter and training for employment. Light of Life offers men the opportunity to be in a healing, Christ-centered community while taking personal responsibility for their choices in the past and future.

**Women:** Through case management and counseling, women at Light of Life are empowered not only to achieve good health and self-sufficiency, but also the tools to grow in their careers, relationships and spiritual walks.

**Children:** Light of Life provides a nurturing environment for children to sleep, learn, play, and receive meals during their mothers' classes.

Chapel Ministry is held both mornings and evenings on a daily basis.

We will be collecting new, short, collapsible umbrellas during the month of February (Totes, etc.) for the Light of Life Rescue Mission

*Give generously to [the poor] and do so without a grudging heart, then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.  
— Deuteronomy 15:10-11*